

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07

DRC-01 /152 W

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R 271420Z JUN 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0210

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0118

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

TRANSMITTED HERewith IS TEXT OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN UK REP  
AND POLISH REP OF 21 JUNE 1974 WHICH WAS CIRCULATED TO AD  
HOC GROUP 26 JUNE 1974.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. MR. STRULAK HAD LUNCH WITH ME TODAY ON HIS RETURN FROM  
WARSAW WHERE HE HAD BEEN ON FAMILY BUSINESS. HE SAID HE  
HAD SEEN AN ACCOUNT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING ON 18 JUNE AND HAD  
ALSO READ AMBASSADOR GRANDE'S STATEMENT OF 20 JUNE.  
WE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF GENERAL CONVERSATION ABOUT CONFIDENCE,  
THE EXPERIENCES OF THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND THE POSITION  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN RELATION TO ITS PARTNERS IN THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THIS COVERED MUCH FAMILIAR GROUND  
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AND IS UNNECESSARY TO RECORD.

2. STRULAK SAID THE MEETING ON 18 JUNE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A USEFUL ONE IN WHICH THERE HAD BEEN SOME POSITIVE MOVEMENT. I SAID THAT THIS WAS WHAT HIS WARSAW PACT COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN SAYING. IT WAS TRUE THERE HAD BEEN SOME CLARIFICATIONS ON THE EASTERN SIDE, THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHICH WE WOULD BE GLAD TO EXPLORE. BUT THESE DID NOT SO FAR REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE "MIDDLE GROUND" IN ANY WAY COMPARABLE TO THE MOVEMENT THE WEST HAD MADE AS A RESULT OF THE VARIOUS ASSURANCES WE HAD GIVEN.

3. THE ONLY POINT IN THE REST OF OUR CONVERSATION WHICH IS WORTH RECORDING CONCERNS NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN DISCUSSING THE WESTERN PROPOSALS, STRULAK COMPLAINED THAT THE EAST WERE BEING ASKED TO REDUCE TANKS WITHOUT ANY SUGGESTION THAT THERE WOULD BE A CEILING ON WESTERN TANKS. I SAID, EVEN AFTER THE REDUCTION WE HAVE PROPOSED FOR THE FIRST PHASE, THERE WOULD BE A DISPARITY OF NEARLY 8,000 IN FAVOUR OF THE EAST. THIS WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE PRESENT NATO TANK STRENGTH. WAS STRULAK SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING THAT THE WEST WERE LIKELY TO INCREASE BY THIS AMOUNT? STRULAK REPLIED THAT HIS MILITARY AUTHORITIES REGARDED THIS SUPERIORITY IN TANKS AS NECESSARY TO COMPENSATE FOR NATO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. I ARGUED, ON FAMILIAR LINES, THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE NOT RELEVANT TO THE QUESTION OF THE IMBALANCE IN GROUND FORCES, IN WHICH EASTERN TANK SUPERIORITY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART. STRULAK SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERED THIS SUPERIORITY ESSENTIAL SO LONG AS THE WEST MAINTAINED ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. I ASKED WHETHER THIS IMPLIED THAT, IF THE WEST WERE TO REDUCE ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE POLES WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEE THE PRESENT WARSAW PACT TANK SUPERIORITY REDUCED. STRULAK SAID HE COULD NOT ANSWER THIS BECAUSE WE WOULD BE IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SITUATION. END TEXT.RESORE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENT DRAFT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JUN 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PARM, UK, (STRULAK)  
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